

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A computer implemented method for collecting medical product information, comprising:

providing a web site having information about medical products;

5 accepting on said web site input indicative of an unmet need relating to the medical products from a plurality of users;

categorizing the unmet need according to a primary topic; and

selecting those unmet needs for development where a predetermined number of unmet need submissions have the same primary topic.

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2. The computer implemented method of claim 1 wherein the categorization is done performed by each said plurality of users electronically selecting a category.

3. The computer implemented method of claim 1 wherein the selecting of unmet needs

15 having a predetermined number of unmet need submissions comprises filtering the unmet needs.

4. The computer implemented method as recited in claim 1 further comprising:

providing a gatekeeper such that the gatekeeper filters out input that relates to product
20 complaints.

5. The computer implemented method as recited in claim 1 further comprising:
providing a gatekeeper such that the gatekeeper filters out input that describes a unmet need
and a solution to the unmet need.

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6. The computer implemented method as recited in claim 5 wherein an invention submission
disclosure form is transmitted to the user that submitted the unmet need and the solution to
the unmet need.

- 10 7. The computer implemented method as recited in claim 1 further comprising
providing a computer implemented medical products information web site in conjunction
with the unmet needs input such that users can input unmet needs while obtaining medical
products information.
- 15 8. A computer-readable medium bearing computer readable instructions for carrying out the
steps recited in claim 1.

9. An apparatus for collecting medical product information, comprising:
a computer hosting a web site wherein the web site stores information about medical
20 products, information about the medical products being electronically searchable and
browseable;

a network connection whereby web pages are delivered to a remote computer and input is accepted from the remote computer, the network accepting an electronic submission indicative of an unmet need for the medical products whereby unmet needs related to the medical products may be determined.

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10. The apparatus as recited in claim 9 further comprising a medical products purchasing database whereby a user can purchase medical products in conjunction with the submission of an unmet need submission.

10 11. A method of improving the operation of medical products, comprising;
retrieving a web page from a medical products server, the web page having input fields including a description field wherein an unmet need may be described, a category field whereby the medical condition to which the product need may be associated; and a submitter identification field whereby the identity of the submitter may be entered;
15 inputting the unmet need in the description field; and,
transmitting the web page contents to a server whereby the contents may be categorized.

20 12. The method as recited in claim 11 further comprising entering account information before retrieving the web page.

13. The method as recited in claim 11 further comprising retrieving a web page comprising medical product information.

14. A computer-readable medium bearing computer readable instructions for carrying out
5 the steps recited in claim 11.

15. A system for collecting medical unmet need information, comprising:

means for providing a web site having information about medical products;
means for accepting on said web site input indicative of an unmet need relating to the
10 medical products from a plurality of users;
means for categorizing the unmet need according to a primary topic whereby unmet
needs for development may be identified where a predetermined number of unmet need
submissions have the same primary topic.

15 16. The system as recited in claim 15 wherein the categorization is done performed by each
said plurality of users electronically selecting a category.

17. The system as recited in claim 15 wherein the selecting of unmet needs having a
predetermined number of unmet need submissions comprises filtering the unmet needs.

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18. The system as recited in claim 15 further comprising:

complaints.

19. The system as recited in claim 15 further comprising:

providing a gatekeeper such that the gatekeeper filters out input that describes a unmet need

5 and a solution to the unmet need.

20. The system as recited in claim 19 wherein an invention submission disclosure form is

transmitted to the user that submitted the unmet need and the solution to the unmet need.

10 21. The system as recited in claim 15 further comprising

providing a computer implemented medical products purchasing web site in conjunction with
the unmet needs input such that users can input unmet needs during a medical products
ordering process.